

House Bill 634, Montana Personal Information Protection Act
House Business and Labor, Room 172, 9 a.m.

- Madame Chair, Members of the Committee, Good Morning. My name is Jorge Quintana, Chief Legal Counsel for the Secretary of State.
- I appear before you today to respectfully oppose House Bill 634. This bill would have a significant monetary impact on the Secretary of State's Office and would add substantially to the workload of the office.
- Because of the broad definition contained in this bill for "personal information," which includes an individual's name, signature, and statements made by or attributed to an individual, and the consent, notification, disclosure, and accountability requirements contained in the bill, this bill would have a broad and far reaching monetary and workload impact on the Secretary of State's Office.
- As part of our statutory duties, and pursuant to state and federal law, our Business Services Division collects social security numbers for Title 71 service liens, Effective Financing Statements, and the Farm Bill Master List.
- In addition, the Elections and Government Services Division collects information due to the federal requirements for the Help America Vote Act to assist with voter registration. The notification requirements in this bill would require action on our part on literally hundreds of thousands of documents filed with our office.

- Montana law already includes provisions for the protection of personal information in Title 2, section 6, part 5, of the Montana Code Annotated. It is a duty I take quite seriously and we will continue to protect the private information in our possession.
- Secretary of State McCulloch is a librarian and a fierce advocate for privacy of information and data.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify.